

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 954

By Moon

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Robert Doyle
McClenagan of Maryville.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Robert Doyle McClenagan; and

WHEREAS, Robert McClenagan was an exemplary public servant and consummate professional who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for his fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, born on July 9, 1948, in Knoxville, Mr. McClenagan was the son of Robert Doyle McClenagan and Juanita Draper McClenagan; he attended Bearden High School, where he played football and was known as a fierce, versatile competitor; and

WHEREAS, in 1970, Robert McClenagan graduated from the University of Tennessee with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Sino-Russian history, anticipating that he would thereafter attend law school; instead, in 1972, he decided to team up with his Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity brothers to open the first Ruby Tuesday restaurant at 716 W. 20th Street in Knoxville; and

WHEREAS, along with Sandy Beall, Rick Eldridge, Lee Wallace, Tom Harper, and Eric Bettis, Mr. McClenagan helped launch the casual dining chain that grew to fifteen locations in 1982, at which time it was purchased by Morrison Cafeteria to become part of its Casual Dining Group and the headquarters were relocated to Mobile, Alabama; and

WHEREAS, with the restaurant expanding rapidly to more than two hundred locations, Mr. McClenagan's leadership skills and business acumen led to him becoming the president of Ruby Tuesday in 1996, and in 1998, the chain was spun off from Morrison Cafeteria as a publicly traded company, and the headquarters returned to Maryville; as of August 2019, Ruby

Tuesday boasted of more than 600 restaurants located throughout forty-three states and thirteen foreign countries; and

WHEREAS, after thirty-two years of great success in the restaurant industry, Robert McClenagan retired in 2004, desiring to fully devote his time and attention to his family and his passion for all things outdoors, including motor sports and hunting; he was an amateur vintage race car driver, competing and winning races throughout the United States, and enjoyed countless hunting trips to grounds throughout the country and in South America and Africa; and

WHEREAS, a man of abiding faith, Mr. McClenagan was an active member of First Baptist Maryville for twenty-four years, and from 2014 forward, he was a member of Fellowship Church in Knoxville, where his son is a teaching pastor; and

WHEREAS, he was also deeply devoted to his family, and he always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, Robert McClenagan will be sadly mourned yet fondly remembered by his wife of thirty-eight years, Robin Cox McClenagan; sons, Robert Doyle "R.D." (Emily) McClenagan III and Ryan Mead (Jessica) McClenagan; granddaughters, Camille, Maise, and Lela Grace; sisters-in-law, Tracy (David) Siddons, Cathy (Bob) Aulthouse, and Claudine (Jim) Kurp; in-laws, Nancy (Gary) Smith, Homer Mead (Janice) Cox; and nieces, Brooke Cox, Ava Kurp, Gia Kurp, Leslie (Ryan) Long, and Betty (David) Cronin; and

WHEREAS, Mr. McClenagan leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED TWELFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE

CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Robert Doyle McClenagan, reflecting fondly upon his impeccable character and his stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Mr. McClenagan.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy and upon proper request made to the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.